

W. E. Woodward Sale of Feb 1, 1887

"property of" "lady of Western New York"

#1750 #807 New York Doubloon. Within a few months the Boston Transcript has published an account of the Brashers, a family famous in the latter part of the last century as goldsmiths in New York. They stamped their work with monograms bearing their initials. One of the bristles issued the New York "Nova Eborac Doubloon," which is stamped "E.B." for Ephraim Brasher. This particular piece is a Spanish doubloon, the variety usually known as cob money. It was evidently perforated and plugged, with a view of increasing its weight, which is now 451 grains about the weight of a Spanish doubloon. It bears the stamp "I.B." which, I believe, identifies the piece as American and the handwork of the Brashers. The gold is of superior fineness and said to be about pure; rare, and I believe unique.

Spanish Brasher

Woodward Sale Feb, 1887

807 @ #17⁵⁰

Committee Report at A.N.S.
in Proceedings of A.N.S.

A.J.N

Vol XLVIII

p xxxiii

Jan 16, 1915

~~1914~~

- 795 1825 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pennies. Bust r. R Commerce setd r. 2 var. Bust l.
 British Colonies. 1830, '41 Canada do. Good to fine. 5
- 796 1840 Victoria, Penny, nearly fine, light olive; 1844 Bk. of Mont.,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ do., partly bright. 2
- 797 1852 Bk. of Up. Can., Penny; 1857 do., $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny; 1859 Vic. Cent;
 1864 N. S., do.; 1871 P. E. I., do. All unc., 4 bright red. 5
- 798 1858 Vic. 5 Cents, silver. Proof with plain edge. Rare.
- 799 1867 Devins & Bolton. Type, Canada Cent. Unc., partly bright.
- 800 The Blacksmiths $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny, with blank rev. Another, sim., hd l. R
 Counterstamped with harp. Fair, good. 2
- 801 $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny. Ship. R Commerce setd. B. 1005. L. 774a. Fair, rare.
- 802 Penny. Ship. R ONE | PENNY within wrth. Fine, very rare.
- 803 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pennies. S. C. & C., Am. and Brit. flags, "No labour, no bread,"
 Man with shamrock; $\frac{1}{4}$ do., Com. Change. Fine. 5
- 804 $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick — Success. Fine, rare.
- 805 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pennies. T. S. Brown & Co., 2 var., fine; J. Shaw & Co., fair. 3
- 806 Hudson Bay Co., East Main Dist. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. B. Token. Unc., rare. 24.
- 807 R. Sharpley. Montreal. Hd. of Vic. l. Unc., scarce. Brass. 22.
- 808 W. L. White's Halifax Farthing. About unc., scarce.
- 809 A collection of Bouquet Sou Tokens. The lot includes some of the
 scarcer pieces. Good to fine. 29

AMERICAN COLONIAL.

- 810 1652 Mass. Pine Tree Shilling. C. pl. 2, No. 16. Rarity 4. Good.
- 811 1652 Another. Broad planchet. Clipped to outer circle, and to
 M in Dom, N in New. C., pl. II, No. 1. Fine. 29.
- 812 1722 Wood's $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny. Harp before Hibernia. Others, figure be-
 fore harp. 1722 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 1723 $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 1724 $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Good. 6
- 813 1742 Lima, Peru. Gold. 8 Escudos or Doubloon. L — 8 —
 V | P — V — A | 7 — 4 — 2 (which we read, Lima,
 8 [Escudos] value (valor). Plus Ultra Anno 1742.) — through
 two pillars in sea. Below, BRASHER. R Cross, with arms of
 Castile and Leon alternating in angles. Counterstamped E · B
 in small oval on centre of cross, same as on Ephraim Brasher's
 N. Y. Doubloon of 1787. Circle of dots around borders. Fine.
 Small scratches on rev. (Weight, 408 Grains). Exceedingly
 rare. Size 27.

This type of coin is not new to us; one similar is to be found in Fon. Cat., No. 8892; but this particular variety by Brasher and counterstamped with his initials, we

*Some coin
 appears in
 Ten Eyck*

have never met with or heard of. The position of the letter V is one generally occupied by the initial of the moneyer on similar coins of Lima, both silver and gold, but here we regard it as an abbreviation of the word Value. It is not presumed that the date indicates year of coinage. We conclude it was made at a subsequent time, and probably while Mr. Brasher was established in New York City as a goldsmith, during which period his memorable Doubloon was coined. So closely is this piece allied with our early coinage, which is classed as Colonial, that we feel it is but a just tribute to place it here with them. It is a well known fact that Spanish-American Doubloons were openly imitated and minted in New York City so late as 1821, as a legitimate or undisturbed pursuit.

- 814 1766 Pitt $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny. Bust *L*. "No stamps." *R* Ship. America. Good.
 815 1779 Rhode Is. Medal. Island view. *R* Ship. Betts, 562. Good.
 816 1783 Annapolis, Md. Shilling, by I. Chalmers. Good, rare. *R* 21.
 817 1787 New York Cent. EXCELSIOR. State arms. *R* Eagle. E
 Pluribus Unum. C. pl. VII, No. 22. Dark, corroded, good. Rare.
 818 1787 Fugio Cent. *R* Chain of 13 links, in circle. Unc., red.
 819 1791 Washington Cent. Bust *L*. *R* Sm. eagle, date. Fine, rare.
 820 1791 Similar, date on *obv*. *R* Large eagle. About unc., rare.
 821 1793 Cent. *Obv*. same die as 819. *R* Ship. Value, date. Good.
 822 1795 Washington $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny. Bust *r*. *R* Fire grate. London. Fine.
 823 Kentucky $\frac{1}{2}$ Penny. Pyramid of stars. *R* Hand with scroll.
 Lettered edge. Unc., partly bright, rare.
 824 Another as last, with plain edge. Fine.
 825 Connecticut Cents. 1785-8. A collection, each in sep. envelope,
 with Crosby's No. Poor to good, mostly fair. 46
 826 N. J. Cents. 1786-8. A collection. Includes plow, no coulter,
 horse's hd *L*. A fine fox type. Each number in separate envelope
 according to Maris. Poor to fine, few of first. 38

Penn. or Bungtown $\frac{1}{4}$ Pennies. A large collection of these decidedly odd pieces which form such a distinctive class, with several rarities, among which; 9 Farthings, about equally distributed in the following 4 lots; average condition is good. Each in a separate envelope, with number by Low's arrangement.

- 827 Ganges III, Rate, Pitt for ever; Gregory III, Pon, etc. 26
 828 Tercypellerivs, Claudius Romanus. God save the King, etc. 26
 829 Georgivs Triumpho, Gustavus Vasa, Hebrides, George Rules, etc. 26
 830 Auctori Plebis, 1736, Alfred, Cornwallis Ind., Brutus, etc. 24

UNITED STATES.

- 831 Half Cents. 1794 Good. *Rev*. fair.
 832 1794 A variety, rather better than last.

C.S. Wilcox Sale

11/6/01 Chapman

#28 ~~1760~~ 1760 Portuguese $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe ctamp EB in oval #15
also TP ctamp. plugged 9 dwt.
#29 1769 EB in script monogram Ex fine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe 9 dwt

Lot
#28

Wilcox Sale

Kosov

1760 Port $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe EB in oval

1758 Port $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe EB in oval

1760 Geo III $\frac{1}{2}$ guinea

1727 Brazil $\frac{1}{2}$ scudo

1747 $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe

1754 $\frac{1}{2}$ dolra

1749 ~~Geo III~~ guinea

1766 $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe Port.

~~1754 $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe~~

Wilcox #29
Sale

EB in script on $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe of 1769

C.S. Wilcox collection of US coins

S.H. & H. Chapman, Nov. 6 & 7, 1901

lot 29 "1769 E B in script monogram on a $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe of 1769.
The coin ex. fine. Weight, 9 pwtg."

21 6 grains

Mercantile
Money Museum
Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, Mo. 63101
314-421-1819



CATALOGUE
OF THE
VERY FINE COLLECTION
OF
UNITED STATES COINS
OF
CHARLES S. WILCOX, Esq.,
CHICAGO, ILL.
ESPECIALLY RICH IN
Government and Personal Issues
OF
GOLD COINS
AND
THE FINEST COLLECTION EVER SOLD
OF
ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS

CATALOGUED BY
S. H. & H. CHAPMAN

1348 PINE STREET, PHILADELPHIA

The whole to be sold at Public Auction by

DAVIS AND HARVEY
AUCTIONEERS

1112 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA

Wednesday and Thursday, November 6 and 7

1901

Commencing each day at 2 P. M.

Excessively rare, and it has been years since a duplicate has been offered for sale. Cost \$45.

- 28 1760 E B (for Ephraim Brasher) in oval punch mark c s on obv. of a Portugese $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe of Jos. I. 1760. This is the same punch mark he put on his celebrated doubloon, and was apparently put on these coins as a guarantee of genuineness. The present piece has been plugged in centre and this plug also c s tp. Gold. Weight, 9 pwts.
- 29 1769 E B in script monogram on a $\frac{1}{2}$ Joe of 1769. The coin ex. fine. Weight, 9 pwts.
- 30 1786 Vt. Range of hills, sun rising, plow beneath. Good.
- 31 1788. Mass. Indian standing. R. Eagle. Cent. C 6-N. Rare. No period after MASSACHUSETTS. Very fine. Light olive.
- 32 1787 Conn. "Horned bust" l. Very good.
- 33 1788 Conn. Bust faces right. Die broken. Very fine. Nicks. C, 2-D*.
- 34 1785-8 Conn. Unassorted. Very poor to good. 5 do not show date. 32 pcs.
- 35 1787 N. Y. Arms of N. Y. EXCELSIOR. R. Eagle. Poor. Very rare.
- 36 1787 N. Y. Liberty seated on *globe*. IMMUNIS COLUMBIA. 1787. (Date partly off as is usual.) R. Eagle. E PLURIBUS UNUM. Very good. Rare.
- 37 1787 N. Y. Bust r. NOVA EBORAC. R. Liberty faces l. Very good.
- 38 1795 N. Y. Liberty standing. R. Ship. Talbot Alum and Lee. Proof.
- 39 1796 N. Y. Castorland. A French Colony Est. on land now Carthage. Beautiful head l. R. Ceres. Bronze. Proof. Restrike.
- 40 1786 N. J. Bust of horse, and plow. *No coulter*. Good. Cleaned.
- 41 1787 N. J. Coulter to plow. Uncirculated. Rough planchet.
- 42 1787 N. J. Large die. Good.

lot #111 byman H how sale of H.G. Brown Collection 10/11/1904

Portuguese Joe

Bahia Mint 1769 cts EB in script

Fine

brought \$11⁰⁰

Zabriskie Sale 6/3/09 Henry Chapman

Lot 74

176's Portugal, Half Joe of Joseph I. B. D.
On obverse the same punch mark E B as on the
last lot^{*}; in the center a hole has been filled Ξ
and on the reverse is an oblong tablet
counterstamped containing E B, Gold. Good
Edge has been cut down in part. Weight $215 \frac{1}{2}$ grs.

(Apparently two different clippings)

* the Brasher Doubloon

Zabruski Sale
has nice
illustration

Mehl

H.O. Granberg Sale

7/14/13

Lot 1137

1754 Portuguese - 2 Jue

cting EB

illustrated

+ O Grunberg Sale
by Mehl 7/14/13

lot ~~1137~~ 1137 Illustrated on Plate III

1754 Half Joe of Portugal
stamp EB in capitals

These Goods Are Sent on Consignment and Approval and the Title in the Consignor Does Not Pass Until They Are Paid For.

408 OLIVE STREET

B. G. JOHNSON, Prop.

To ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO. Dr.

3M

194

St. Louis 2, Mo.,



Numerologist

Aug 1922

Vol 35 p 374

Brasher

Ten Eyck Sale prices

Show Brasher doubloon 1787

\$ 3000⁰⁰ =

Spanish Brasher doubloon

\$ 260⁰⁰ =

Obt

Mehl says in Ten Eyck sale that
Spanish Brusher is auctioned for the
first time. This is wrong as it is
the identical specimen auctioned in
1894 by Scott.

Raymond is on committee
He didn't know about the other one
He never put it in his old catalogue

NE counterstamped
on coins is discussed
in the modern Numisma
Mar 1956 +
May 1956

It was approved by
law of Mass but
never done

Ehrlman Sale
Apr 1951
lots 9 + 201

Schulman sale Apr 1951

(PHILLIP III - 1598-1621)

(Lot) 9. Same 1617 Seville Modern Round Style
EXF. Counterstamped NE as on New England Coins. (Plate)

(BOLIVIA - [POTOSI MINT])

201 Phil. IV 1621-65 - 1659 Pillars - CSPD. NE .. (Plate)

1772 Half Joe of Port
R Mint

Wt $184\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

Sent by Schulman Feb 1960 and ^{is lot #2250} ~~different~~
~~from one~~ in Feb 4-5-6 Sale.

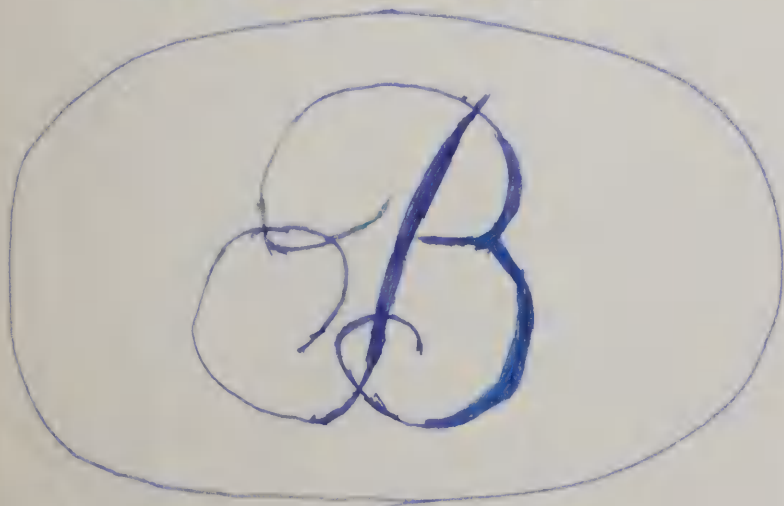
Script EB ^{in oval just above} ~~center~~ center of obverse stamp over
plugged hole 3mm in dia

No edge filing

Oval has horizontal diameter of 7mm
and vertical diameter of 5mm.

Whether this is B or EB is
not definite

The coin is described in the catalogue as
having two plugs. It only has one. The rose
in the reverse garland on the right side of the
reverse is ^{slightly} crushed by the main counterstamp
or heavily worn



ANCIENT AND AMERICAN GOLD

CELTIC GOLD

- 2242 **TRIER** Under Celtic rule at the Rhine. 100-45 B.C. Stater "Vocaran"
Large eye. Rev. Horse, (de la Tour 8823. Blanch 308). Red gold. VF. **PLATE** (75.00)
- 2243 **(In Iberian Peninsular)** \$5 size button style gold. Celtic coin found in
Portugal and established to have been the Celtic's money in early days.
Dr. Batalha Reis published an essay on this find in Portuguese. Rare.
Unc. **PLATE, SEE 673** (100.00)

CRUSADER

- 2244 **JERUSALEM** Baldwin II. Fatimid type
in pseudo cufic. Fr. p. 353.1(40) EF. **U.** (45.00)



- 2245 **COLUMBUS COINAGE** (1492). Fer
excellente, no date or double duc
without eagle. S(evilla) mint. Fr. p.
2246 **4 Excellentes or 4 ducats**, no date.
Friedberg does not list this type on
2247 Double excellente (2 ducats) about 1492
Queen Ferdinand and Isabelle who sp
Rev. Arms. S(evilla) VQR 6498. var. F

INDEPENDENCE

- 2248 Colombian 2 esc. **1776 NR.** Bust of Ch. III. R

U.S. COLONIAL

- 2249 Half Joe 1757 of Joseph I. struck at Rio de Janeiro with 2 inserted plugs
A script "B" in circle and I. D. About the script B, Howland Wood
writes in his "The Coinage of West Indies" page 118; "Some attributed
this to Berbice, now in British Guiana, but as the coins with this
counterstamp are found belonging to this country. Some catalogues,
without any proof, have claimed this to be one of Ephraim Brasher's
marks. His mark was EB in an oval and as an English sovereign is
known bearing both stamps, this fact would make it fairly convincing
that the script B is not Brasher's. In the catalogue of the Murdoch sale
there is a note to the effect that pieces thus marked circulated in
Georgia during the Colonial period". An interesting and extremely
rare coin. VF. **PLATE** (350.00)

- 2250 Half Joe 1772 Struck at Rio de Janeiro with 2 inserted plugs. VF. (250.00)

OTHER U.S. GOLD

- 2251 Gold coins of 4 sovereigns (1947) size between \$10-\$20. 1 3/4" diameter.
Eagle. Rev. inscr. gross weight 493.1 grains and 916 2/3 fine. Listed in
the U.S. standard catalogue. Fr. p. 48.107(250). EF. Rare. (For Saudi
Arabia). **PLATE** (175.00)
- 2252 \$1. 1851. VF. (—)
- 2254 **150th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.** Bust left rev. Log cabin
Hodgenville, Kentucky. 1809-1959, 2 pieces: 1 silver, 1 gold, Unc. set (45.00)
- 2255 **LINCOLN** Same as before. 1 piece gold. Unc. (35.00)
- 2256 **Gold pin** of Erasmus Hall High School of Brooklyn, New York 1912, 14K. (10.00)

END OF THIRD SESSION

"Most Valuable U. S. Coin"

Brasher Spanish Doubloon

Catalogue of Hollenbeck Feb 26, 1962 Sale

"Discovered and Handled by the Kargins"

Superior Stamp + Coin

11/19

EB Counterstamp on 1750 Geo-II Soud



oval size $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm wide $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm high

red ink scratches (heavy ones) Also scratches above
Space betw ~~E~~ & B

Upright of B tilts to left compared to
upright of E.

No period between E B

Double punching evidence at bottom of E and B
caused by punch slippage

Wt ~~126~~ $126\frac{1}{2}$ grains

Photo taken

Postage #2 20

Garrett 3/25/81

E.B. Counterstamps

The following coins, each counterstamped EB, were collected by John Work Garrett. It is believed that the gold coins are among those counterstamped by Brasher during the late 19th century when he was known to have engaged in the practice (see earlier biography). In addition to the specimens acquired by John Work Garrett, one example was obtained by T. Harrison Garrett earlier, in 1883.



- 2342 1718 Quarter guinea of Great Britain. Gold. 31.5 grains. Counterstamped EB in the center of the obverse. Very Fine.

Obtained by John Work Garrett from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Ten Eyck Collection of 1922.



(See Color Photo)

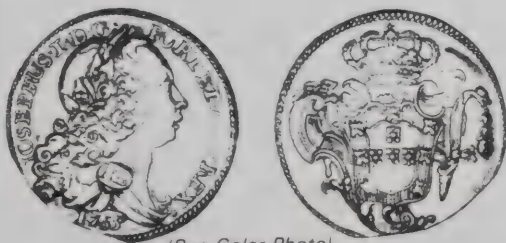
- 2343 1734 Guinea of Great Britain. George II. 126 grains. Counterstamped slightly below and to the right of the center of the obverse with an EB hallmark. Very Good. Clipped at right edge.



(See Color Photo)

- 2344 1749 Guinea of Great Britain. George II. 125.5 grains. With two counterstamps: an EB below and slightly to the right of the center of the obverse and a script letter B at the upper left of the obverse. Very Good.

Obtained by John Work Garrett from the Col. James W. Ellsworth Collection, March 1923.



(See Color Photo)

- 2345 1755 Four escudos of Portugal. Joseph I. 216 grains. Counterstamped EB on the neck. Extremely Fine to AU with much original lustre. Clipped along the lower left border.

This example was acquired by T. Harrison Garrett from the Chapman brothers on March 20, 1883.



(See Color Photo)

- 2346 Guinea of Great Britain. George III. 123 grains. Date not visible, for the edge is extensively clipped in the date area. Counterstamped EB near the center of the obverse. Very Fine, but with large clip at bottom.

Obtained by John Work Garrett from the Ten Eyck Collection sold by B. Max Mehl in 1922.

The 1792 United States Pattern Coinage

The following eight lots, prefaced by a general description of the 1792 history and its coinage, represent the most significant most important offering of 1792 pattern coins ever to be made to numismatists. With one exception, the 1792 silver half dism. all are of extreme rarity. With no exceptions, all are of extreme historical significance.

The coinage of 1792 had its beginnings a decade earlier. In a report to Congress on January 15, 1782, Robert Morris, superintendent of finance, proposed a national coinage. On February 21st of the same year suggestions for a government mint were approved. Resulting from this were the 1783 Nova Constellatio silver pattern coins, the unique set of which appeared in our first Garrett Collection sale. Despite the efforts of Morris and others, the mint did not materialize. In 1785 Congress gave its approval to the dollar as a basic currency, unit with decimal subdivisions, but no action to establish a mint was taken at that time. Five years later, in 1790, Congress instructed Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to prepare a plan to establish a national mint. On July 20th of the following year a report was submitted to Congress, and on March 3rd President George Washington approved a joint resolution of Congress to establish a coining facility.

On April 2, 1792, an additional law "establishing a mint and regulating the coins of the United States" was approved by Congress, which then immediately proceeded to carry out the intention of the act. The original legislation, prior to its April 2nd passage, proposed that:

Upon each of the said coins there shall be an impression or representation of the head of the President of the United States for the time being, with an inscription which shall express the initial or first letter of the Christian or first name and his surname at length, the succession of the presidency numerically, and the year of the coinage; the reverse of the gold and silver coins to bear . . . an eagle with the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Washington protested the use of the president's portrait as being "too monarchical," so the section referring to this was changed to specify "an impression emblematic of liberty with an inscription of the word Liberty, and the year of coinage . . ."

John Harper, a Trenton, New Jersey saw maker who had premises in Philadelphia at the corner of Sixth and Cherry streets worked with government officials during 1792 and is believed to have struck certain pieces, including coins intended as a proposal for a private contract. The idea of coining by private contract was brought forth in 1792 and persisted for a number of years thereafter, although the desire to have a complete national minting facility prevented private coining from being a reality.

Exceedingly Rare 1787 Indian/George III Copper



(See Color Photo)

606 1787 New York related copper. Muling with Indian and George III. 118.9 grains.

Obverse (or reverse, whichever you choose) with the standing figure of an Indian, a tomahawk in his right hand (on the left of the coin) and a loosely strung bow in his left. Legend LIBERTATUM DEFENDO surrounds. Reverse (the other side from the Indian) from an imitation halfpenny die with a portrait of King George III. Legend GEORGIVS III REX surrounds.

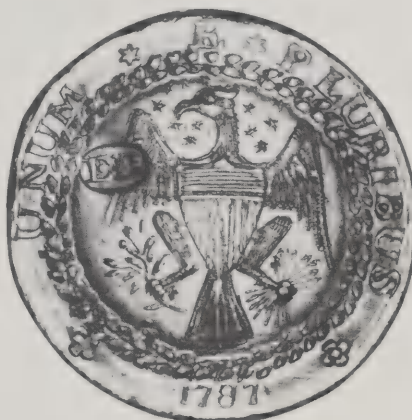
Good-4 condition from the standpoint of appearance; **bold EF** or better, from the standpoint of *actual wear*. A very crudely and carelessly struck issue. An example of Machin's Mills most hasty production. The *Guide Book* notes **just three specimens are known to exist** of this variety. The present example is the *Guide Book* plate coin.

An exceedingly important opportunity for the early American coin specialist.

From the Mills Collection; earlier from the collections of Lorin G. Parmelee, Charles I. Bushnell, and J.J. Mickley. A stellar pedigree which includes some of our most prominent early numismatists.

Finest Known 1787 Brasher Doubloon

Lot 607



(See Color Photo)

A Brief History of the Brasher Doubloon

The 1787 gold doubloon issued by Ephraim Brasher, New York goldsmith, silversmith and jeweler, is probably the most famous of all American coin issues, if not the most famous individual gold coin issue in the entire world. In the few instances that specimens have appeared in auction sale catalogues during the past century, great acclaim and publicity have accompanied the offerings. A motion picture entitled *The Brasher Doubloon* used this coin as a theme some years ago.

Although Brasher and his coinage have been mentioned on several occasions in articles in *The American Journal of Numismatics*, *The Numismatist*, and elsewhere, as well as in auction catalogue listings, the first detailed study did not appear until 1958 when Walter H. Breen wrote "Brasher & Bailey: Pioneer New York Coiners, 1787-1792" for inclusion in the *Centennial Publication of the American Numismatic Society*. Richard A. Bagg, of our staff, thoroughly researched this subject through the archives of the New York Historical Society, the American Numismatic Society, and other likely sources earlier this year and was successful in locating extensive additional information about Brasher's life. Unfortunately, specific details concerning the issuing of his famous 1787 doubloon still remain elusive, as does data pertaining to the 1742-dated Spanish-style doubloon also attributed to Brasher.

Ephraim Brasher was born in 1744 of Dutch ancestry. The family had several branches, some of which used such spelling variations as Brasier, Brazier, Breser, Bresert and Bradejor. The family produced

other silversmiths over the years, including Ephraim Brasher's younger brother Abraham.

Ephraim Brasher took Anne Gilbert as his wife in 1766. Little information is available about her except for the fact that her brother was a silversmith also. This same year saw one of the earliest appearances of work attributed to Brasher's silversmithing. A silver coffee-pot bearing his hallmark, presently housed in the Abbott-Lenox Fund Collection in the New York Historical Society, has been attributed to 1766. By that time he would have been 22 years old. It is reasonable to assume that by that time he had completed his apprenticeship, and having married, had begun to work on his own.

During the Revolutionary War, Brasher served as a grenadier in the provincial Army from 1775 to 1776. In 1783 he participated on the Evacuation Day Committee which celebrated the event of the British troops being withdrawn from New York City.

There was no official record of civic and local affairs of the New York City government until February 10, 1784, as the city was under a military form of government for the duration of the Revolutionary War period. With the establishment of the civilian government, systematic minutes were kept, and Brasher is mentioned on various occasions in these records.

On August 31, 1785, Ephraim Brasher petitioned the Common Council that he might "be permitted to convert the fire Engine House in St. George's Square into a Place of Business on his own ground." Although several other local proprietors objected to the petition, it was granted by the Council on September 29, 1785. Perhaps it was

intended that the structure be turned into a smithing location. St. George's Square was located at the intersection of Pearl and Cherry streets. The *New York City Directory*, first published in 1786, gave 1 Cherry Street as Brasher's address.

The Articles of Confederation, adopted in 1787 and continuing in effect until 1789, stipulated that Congress had the power to regulate the value and alloy of coins struck, although the various states had authority to coin money. As Congress had not implemented a framework for federal production of coins, specimens in circulation continued to be an assortment which included much foreign coinage.

The Bank of New York, established in 1784, distributed a list of coins, their weights and the accepted value at which various foreign gold coins would be received in payment. The *New York Register*, published in 1789 noted that "payments made at the bank must be examined at the time, as no deficiencies suggested afterward will be admitted."

Many of the gold coins circulated were counterfeit. It was considered unwise to accept any coin until it was pronounced genuine. Confusion arising from the wide variety of denominations, designs and countries of origin aided the counterfeiters. To this was added the problem of clipping (the practice of removing small amounts of metal from a coin's edge) and other illicit practices for obtaining profit from a coin, such as sweating them to extract minute portions of gold.

Although there is some controversy on the subject, it is widely believed that Brasher performed the service of assaying, testing and evaluating foreign gold coins. He would then counterstamp those pieces he deemed to be genuine and sufficient in weight with his initials EB in an oval stamp (his hallmark) as a guarantee. Several specimens of foreign gold coins marked in this way are known today, including a rose guinea of George II, a quarter guinea of George I and a "half joe" of Joseph I (which was offered in the sale of the James Ten Eyck Collection in 1922).

Howland Wood, in an article titled "The Coinage of the West Indies with an Especial Reference to the Cut and Counterstamped Pieces," which appeared in the *American Journal of Numismatics* in 1914, advanced the theory that Brasher was relied upon to certify the legitimacy of certain coins. Similarly, in an article titled "Ephraim Brasher Silversmith of New York," appearing in the *American Collector*, 1938, by S. Decatur, the author declared "Brasher's reputation for probity was unquestioned; it was immediately recognized that his initials on a gold or silver coin was a guarantee of its purity." Vernon L. Brown published his article "The Brasher Doubloon" in *The Numismatist* in 1964. He resisted this theory, pointing out that there was no evidence to the effect that any other goldsmith performed such a service.

Among his other duties, Brasher served as assayer for the United States Mint. The "Estimated Expenditures for the Year 1796," contained in the *American State Papers*, Finance, Vol. 1, reports a \$27 Treasury Warrant:

... in favor of John Shield, assignee of Ephraim Brasher; being for assays made by said Brasher, in the year 1792, for the Mint on sundry coins of gold and silver, pursuant to instructions from the then Secretary of the Treasury.

A record of the petitions of Ephraim Brasher and John Bailey, appealing to the New York State Assembly for the right to produce copper coins, is found in the *Assembly Journal*, where is stated: "The several petitions of John Bailey and Ephraim Brasher, relative to the coinage of copper within the state, were read and referred [to committee]."

There is no trace of the original petitions and it is not known whether they were submitted separately by Ephraim Brasher and John Bailey in competition with each other, or together in partnership. It is known that Brasher did not always work alone, and at one time John Bailey was associated with him, as were his brothers Abraham and George Alexander. According to the 1787 *New York City Directory*, Brasher and Bailey lived in close proximity to each other (77 Queen Street and 22 Queen Street respectively) which

could lead to the assumption of a partnership between them at the time.

On March 3, 1787, the committee appointed by the Assembly was "at a loss to determine the extent of the intended regulation, whether it was only to ascertain the value of the pieces now in circulation, or whether it was meant to extend to new coinage." The contention was that any new coinage would be subject to certain abuses. On March 15th it was resolved that another committee must be appointed "to establish a coinage of copper in the state." By April 12th the bill emerged under the title "An Act to Regulate the Circulation of Copper Coins in this State," which seems to indicate an alteration in the original intent of the bill. It was passed into law on April 20, 1787.

During the period between February 12th, when Brasher is supposed to have initiated his petition, and the enactment of the retitled Act on April 12th, the legislators drifted from the original proposals for new coinage to the narrower purpose of regulating the existing conglomerate coinage. In the *Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of United States Coins*, Don Taxay remarks that "possibly some or all of the doubloons were presented to the Legislature in order to effect a favorable verdict," as the size of the doubloon was identical to the planchet size for coining coppers. Contrarily, Walter Breen believes the doubloons were made for circulation, not as patterns. In *The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*, published in 1954, Wayne Raymond proposed that a gold coinage was needed for larger transactions during the 1787 era, and therefore, the doubloon was minted for that purpose. Another theory proposes these pieces were intended as souvenirs.

The 1787 doubloons bearing the full Brasher surname, BRASHER, as a signature, do not have a value marked on them. This was not an unusual situation during this period. When the United States Mint first produced gold coins they bore no mark to identify the denomination, probably following the tradition they were accustomed to, as British gold denominations were not identified. The same was also true of numerous foreign issues then in circulation. The value was determined by the metallic purity and weight. For this reason the countermark "EB" which appears on all known examples of the Brasher doubloon would have been a further indication of the coin's quality.

Brasher had obtained considerable fame and a reputation for the quality of his silver and gold products. George Washington owned various pieces crafted by Brasher. Among the items in the inventory of the Washington household were two tea trays identified with the EB in an oval. At one time Washington was a neighbor to Brasher's 1 Cherry Street address. When planning his move to 3 Cherry Street, Washington requested Samuel Osgood, past commissioner of the Treasury, "to put the same and the furniture thereof in proper condition for the residence and use of the President of the United States." Brasher's shop on Queen Street was only a short distance north of his home on Cherry Street and he was therefore convenient for the purchase of "sundry articles of plate," which altogether totaled slightly over 283 pounds sterling.

In April 1790, following his move to Broadway, Washington paid 8 pounds, 8 shillings and 4 pence for "4 silver skewers" to Brasher, who was also supplying his wares to other notables. Brasher's esteemed reputation is attested to by the patronage of these prominent people, especially that of the president, which must have been seen as the equivalent of royal patronage by a citizenry accustomed to judging by such signs. It would have been logical for him to believe that gold coins prominently bearing his name would be accepted in the channels of commerce.

In addition to his activities in silversmithing and goldsmithing, Brasher was busy in civic affairs. In 1784 and 1785 he served as sanitary commissioner. From 1786 to 1791, according to the minutes of the Common Council, he was paid as a coroner "for taking inquests on dead bodies." He served as an assistant justice from 1794 to 1797, an election inspector from 1796 to 1809 and commissioner of excise between 1806 and 1810.

(continued—)

(Brasher/continued)

The records show a second marriage for Brasher on December 2, 1797. When he died in 1810, his will bequeathed to his wife Mary "all my estate both real and personal."

The first numismatic recognition for the Brasher doubloons came in 1838 when Adam Eckfeldt discovered a piece among some gold coins which were sent to the Mint for assaying and melting. He saved the piece and placed it in the Mint Cabinet, which was in its early stage at the time. In 1846 W. E. DuBois, referring to this specimen, comments that it is "a very remarkable gold coin, equal in value to a doubloon, coined at New York in 1787."

In 1858 it was described by J. H. Hickcox in *An Historical Account of American Coinage*. It was illustrated in Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson's *The American Numismatic Manual*, which first appeared in 1859. Dickeson states he had seen four examples and "it is said to have been duplicated in silver," but stipulates he had never seen one in that metal. He subscribed to the pattern theory to explain the issue, commenting "it is inferable that this coin was gotten up as a pattern piece."

The first appearance of a 1787 Brasher doubloon was anticipated at the sale of the Seavey Collection, catalogued by W. H. Strobridge in 1873, however the entire collection was purchased intact by Lorin G. Parmelee prior to the sale and the event was cancelled.

When Sylvester Crosby's monumental work, *The Early Coins of America*, appeared in 1875, it contained an illustration of the Brasher doubloon. The author noted "four of these doubloons have come to our knowledge; they are owned by Mr. Bushnell, Mr. Parmelee, Mr. Stickney and the United States Mint at Philadelphia; the first has the punch-mark on the breast of the eagle."

The first actual sale finally occurred in 1882 at the public auction sale of the Charles I. Bushnell specimen. The sale was conducted by the Chapman brothers. The price realized was \$505. Later it was sold to T. Harrison Garrett through Edouard Frossard. Today, this piece remains as the only specimen of the variety with the EB punched on the eagle's breast rather than on the wing.

In 1890 the Robert Coulton Davis specimen was the second to be auctioned and was recognized as the fifth known example. The third piece to cross the auction block was Lorin G. Parmelee's (Seavey Collection) specimen, which also sold in 1890. Today, five specimens of the 1787 doubloon, with punch-mark on the eagle's wing, can be traced. An outstanding example of this type was in the Matthew Stickney Collection. It was an important feature of the American Numismatic Society's Exhibition of United States and Colonial Coins in 1914. The piece had been acquired by Col. James W. Ellsworth in the Stickney Collection sale in 1907. The piece was subsequently acquired by John Work Garrett for the Garrett Collection in 1923. Thus the Garrett Collection has the distinction of housing one of each of the two known varieties of the Brasher doubloon.

Known Specimens of the Brasher Doubloon

As noted, there are five specimens of the Brasher doubloon with a punch-mark on the wing of the eagle, which can be traced by today's researchers, and one specimen with the punch-mark on the eagle's breast. The latter coin, which is unique, is part of the Garrett Collection to be auctioned by us in a subsequent sale.

Of the five 1787 Brasher doubloons with the hallmark on the eagle's left wing, the known specimens are as follows:

1. The specimen offered herein. **Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-63.** 407.9 grains. *Believed to be the finest known example of all Brasher*

doubloons. From the collection of Col. James W. Ellsworth; earlier from the collection of Matthew A. Stickney of Salem, Massachusetts. This piece was acquired by John Work Garrett in 1923 as part of a purchase arranged by Wayte Raymond. The Ellsworth Collection, at the time described as the finest ever sold, was handled by M. Knoedler & Co., New York art dealers. In exchange for \$50,000, which was half the total purchase price of the collection, John Work Garrett received the privilege of first choice of pieces in the Ellsworth holdings. The remaining pieces were sold over a period of time by Wayte Raymond.

2. The specimen in the Robert Coulton Davis Collection; then to John G. Mills; then to James Ten Eyck; then to Virgil M. Brand; then to Robert Friedberg. This piece sold at auction in July 1979 by Rar-coa. The purchaser was Walter Perschke.

3. The specimen in the Smithsonian Institution; earlier part of the Mint Cabinet on display for many years in Philadelphia. This was one of the first pieces to be included in the Mint Cabinet when it was formed in 1838. It was rescued by Adam Eckfeldt from among gold coins intended for assaying and melting.

4. The specimen owned by the American Numismatic Society, New York; the gift of Hon. and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb. From S. Hudson & Henry Chapman, circa 1897, to Allison W. Jackman; to Waldo C. Newcomer; to Col. E. H. R. Green; to Burdette G. Johnson; to F. C. C. Boyd; via New Netherlands Coin Company to the Norweb family.

5. The Yale University specimen. Earlier from the collections of Lorin G. Parmelee, Capt. Andrew C. Zabriskie, Virgil M. Brand, Burdette G. Johnson and F. C. C. Boyd.

A sixth specimen has been mentioned as the property of Willis H. DuPont, however, we have not examined the piece and have no information concerning the provenance of the piece.

The Garrett Specimen Here Offered

The specimen offered in this sale is believed to be **the finest known example of America's most famous coin**. Enlarged color illustrations together with additional information can be found in the companion reference volume, *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, by Q. David Bowers.

As noted, the coin is **Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-63**. It is a bright, lustrous gold color and is sharp and desirable in every respect.

The design on the obverse is of a mountain range with a high peak at the center, above is a rising sun with resplendent rays. Below, the signature of the engraver appears in full: BRASHER. A circle of finely-spaced beads surrounds. On the border is the legend: NOVA EBORACA COLUMBIA EXCELSIOR.

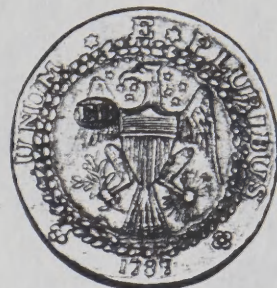
At the center of the reverse is an heraldic eagle. In the left talon (to the observer's right) is a bundle of arrows; in the right talon is a branch. Surrounding the eagle's head is a galaxy of stars. Boldly countermarked on the eagle's right (observer's left) wing is the punch-mark EB. Surrounding the central area is a wreath composed of a double row of overlapping leaves. The border displays the legend E Pluribus Unum written as UNUM E. PLURIBUS, with the date, 1787, below.

This coin will be the centerpiece in any collection, public or private, in which it is placed. No other Brasher doubloon can compete with the state of preservation. No other coin can compete with its incredible fame and reputation.

THE WORLD RENOWNED 1787 BRASHER GOLD DOUBLOON

The Most Famous of all American Coins The First Gold Coin Struck for Circulation in the United States

The Woodward-Parmelee-Zabriskie-Brand-Yale University Specimen



Lot No. 199

- 199 **The World Famous 1787 Brasher Gold Doubloon.** Made in New York City by the celebrated goldsmith, Ephraim Brasher. The Brasher Doubloon was the first gold coin regularly struck for circulation in the newly independent United States. 407.5 grains. 29.8mm diameter. **This is the variety with the EB punch on eagle's right wing. Extremely rare:** we know of only seven different specimens of this variety that have survived the intervening 210 years since they were struck. Of all of them, the present specimen boasts one of the longest and most important pedigrees: Cogan-McCoy-Woodward-Parmelee-Zabriskie-Brand-Yale University.

This is the first appearance of a Brasher Doubloon in a public auction sale since the 1981 sale of the second Garrett Collection specimen. Two years prior to that auction, RARCOA offered the Ten Eyck specimen in their session of Auction '79. Before that sale, however, a Brasher Doubloon had not been offered at public auction since Mehl's 1922 sale of the ten Eyck Collection. **In the past 75 years, therefore, there have only been four auction appearances of a Brasher Doubloon.** So rare is the coin, that this present sale marks the first time Stack's has sold a specimen through a public auction. We have, of course, sold specimens through private treaty sales (the Norweb-SI coin and the presently offered Yale example). (SEE COLOR PLATE)

The 1787 Brasher Doubloon is one of the most important of all American coins. Its historical fame cannot be overemphasized. The 1787 Brasher Doubloon has played a starring role in the movies and on the pages of a well known detective story by Dashiell Hammett of *The Maltese Falcon* fame. Anytime the name of the Brasher Doubloon is mentioned heads turn and intense interest and curiosity are aroused. The list of past owners of a Brasher Doubloon reads like a "Who's Who in American Numismatics". When this Brasher Doubloon is sold, the new owner of the one-time Yale University specimen will immediately take his (or her) place among the numismatic greats of the past two centuries.

The obverse of Brasher's 1787 Doubloon shows the sun rising over mountains in the background, with the waters of a lake or river in front. Immediately over the beaded circle Brasher proudly placed his own name, to show the great pride he took in his new gold coin creation. Around the rim are the Latin words NOVA EBORACA (meaning "New York"), COLUMBIA (meaning "America"), and EXCELSIOR (meaning "Ever Upward," which is even today still New York State's motto). On the reverse is a heraldic eagle modelled after the one on the Federal Great Seal, which carries the Shield of Union on its breast. The date, 1787, is at the bottom. Around the top is a variation of the national motto, in this case reading UNUM E PLURIBUS instead of the now usual E PLURIBUS UNUM.

The 1787 Brasher Doubloon was the first gold coin struck in America for circulation in the new republic. The dies for the new gold coin were cut by Ephraim Brasher, the famous New York City goldsmith who had earlier made silverware for President George Washington's own service. While no one knows for certain, in 1787 Ephraim Brasher may have been working under contract to the Bank of New York. The bank had been founded just a few short years earlier by Alexander Hamilton. Some numismatists believe that Brasher was commissioned by the Bank of New York to make his doubloons as an effort to create a local, New York state, gold coinage. The thought is that Brasher's new Doubloons would replace the mixed up mass of miscellaneous gold coins from countries around the world that were then circulating in New York's trade. Many of these miscellaneous gold coins were clipped and otherwise underweight.

Some of them were even counterfeits, made of base metal or debased gold. Brasher's Doubloons were of good weight and fineness, and his name stamped on the coins guaranteed that they would be honored in his native city. While this elaborate theory is still unproven, it is one that many numismatists today have begun to accept.

The Yale University specimen of the celebrated 1787 Brasher Doubloon enjoys one of the most notable pedigrees of them all. Edward Cogan, who was America's first full time coin dealer, is the first recorded owner of the coin. A resident of Philadelphia, Cogan later sold the coin to John R. McCoy of Pittsburgh. Noted 19th century auctioneer William Elliot Woodward purchased McCoy's collection in the spring of 1864 and sold it in his October, 1864 sale to Colin Lightbody. The following year, Lightbody asked Woodward to sell the Brasher for him, and it was included in Woodward's March 20, 1865 sale. George F. Seavey paid \$400 for it at the sale, a handsome sum at the time, far exceeding the average person's annual income, and interestingly, exactly the same amount that Lightbody had paid for it the year previous. Eight years later, in 1873, George Seavey decided to sell his Brasher at auction, but when Lorin G. Parmelee offered to buy Seavey's entire collection, Seavey cancelled the auction and the coin passed to Parmelee. Parmelee's collection was sold at auction in 1890, and the Brasher Doubloon was purchased by Andrew C. Zabriskie. Zabriskie's collection was sold 19 years later by Henry Chapman, and the Brasher Doubloon caught the eye of noted mega-collector Virgil M. Brand. Brand purchased the Brasher Doubloon in 1909 through an agent at the sale, and it remained in the Brand family holdings for several decades. Later, Burdette G. Johnson purchased the coin from a Brand heir, and sold it to famous New York numismatist F.C.C. Boyd. In 1944, Boyd sold it to Reverend William H. Owen, a Yale University graduate who was curator of the University's coin collection. Owen donated the coin to his alma mater in 1944, where it remained for the next 36 years except for a short interlude in Florida. In 1980, Stack's was commissioned by Yale to sell their Brasher Doubloon privately. Stack's is privileged to be able once again to offer the celebrated 1787 Brasher Doubloon to its next eminent owner.

Starting Bid \$800,000

Property of a Southern Lady



Ephraim Brasher Countermark Piece, EB hallmark on the obverse of a George III (1760-1820), Gold Guinea, 1766, laureate head right, *rev.* granished shield (S.3727), *host coin clipped directly below bust, evidence of soil action, very fine, C/M as struck, extremely fine*

\$8,000-10,000

Spink America auction
5/17/99 p.24



95



97



98

